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Letter dated 28 February 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit texts of the joint communiqués of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on the situation on the Korean peninsula and on the Iraq question adopted in Beijing on 27 February 2003 (see annexes I and II).

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes were to be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
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Annex I to the letter dated 28 February 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

On 27 February Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Igor Ivanov and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Tang Jiaxuan expressed profound concern over the situation in the Korean peninsula.

Guided by their sincere desire to assist the strengthening of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, Russia and China call upon all concerned parties to exert the necessary efforts towards a peaceful and just resolution of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The sides emphasize that ensuring the non-nuclear status of the Korean peninsula, the observance there of the regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the preservation in that region of peace, security and stability meet the common aspirations of the international community.

The sides note that a constructive and equal dialogue between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has great significance for resolving the situation around the "North Korean nuclear problem" and normalizing American-North Korean relations.

The sides regard as necessary the continuation of an active dialogue and the further development of cooperation between North and South Korea. This process constitutes a substantial contribution to improving the situation on the Korean peninsula and in North-East Asia as a whole.

The sides take into account the position stated by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the absence of an intention to create nuclear weapons and the desire signified by the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to resolve the problems by peaceful means.

The sides reiterate that Russia and China are ready to make every effort to facilitate the American-North Korean dialogue and, in a bilateral and multilateral format, to contribute actively to a political solution of the Korean nuclear problem and the preservation of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Russia and China intend to continue to develop good-neighbourly, friendly ties and cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

Annex II to the letter dated 28 February 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

On 27 February Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Igor Ivanov and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Tang Jiaxuan held an in-depth exchange of views on the Iraq question and reached a broad mutual understanding.

The sides expressed serious concern over the tensions around the Iraq question.

The sides favour a resolution of the Iraq crisis by political and diplomatic means within the framework of the United Nations. Resolution 1441 (2002) unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 8 November 2002, and the other relevant resolutions provide the necessary legal basis for that.

Russia and China proceed from the assumption that inspection activities by the United Nations Monitoring Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) play an important role in the matter of resolving the Iraqi question, have achieved definite progress and should proceed further. The United Nations Security Council should strengthen the guidance and support of inspection work.

The sides emphasized that Iraq should fully, strictly and undeviatingly comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and may not possess any weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles. Iraq should be fully aware of the importance and urgency of inspections. The sides called upon Iraq to maximally build on cooperation with UNMOVIC and IAEA and to cooperate more broadly, actively and qualitatively with the inspectors, thus creating the necessary conditions for a political resolution of the Iraqi question.

The sides reiterate their firm resolve to continue to help a political resolution of the Iraq question in every possible way, and proceed from the assumption that a war can and should be avoided. The international community is everywhere demanding that all the measures should be taken for the maximum prevention of military action. These aspirations should be respected.

The sides emphasized that the Security Council bears the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and should, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, continue to play a central role in resolving the Iraq problem. All Member States of the United Nations must respect and protect the authority and powers of the United Nations Security Council.

The sides are determined to continue to maintain their close contacts and cooperation in order to encourage a political resolution of the Iraq question on the basis of the principles of the United Nations Charter.